

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 OIC-02 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12

NEA-09 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /131 W  
----- 050934

R 170600Z APR 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 59

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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PASS STR FOR AMB DENT

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR YEUTTER

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJ: MTN: CLOSING STATEMENT OF US DELEGATION TO  
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AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING, APRIL 16, 1975

REF: GENEVA 2610

QUOTE MR CHAIRMAN:

AT OUR FIRST MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE GROUP THE UNITED STATES OUTLINED ITS POSITION THAT NEGOTIATION ON AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE PRIMARILY, IF NOT ENTIRELY, IN THE TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF GROUPS. IN OUR VIEW THE AGRICULTURE GROUP WAS TO BE PRIMARILY AN EXPERT AND ADVISORY BODY THAT WOULD COMPLEMENT AND SUPPLEMENT THE NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER BODIES WITH ITS EXPERTISE IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE. WE FELT THERE WAS NO URGENT NEED TO FORM SUB-GROUPS IN THE AGRICULTURE GROUP UNTIL THERE HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE TARIFF AND NTM GROUPS.

AS IT BECAME APPARENT THAT OTHERS DID NOT SHARE THE US APPROACH, WE HAVE MODIFIED OUR POSITION SUBSTANTIALLY TO MEET THE CONCEPT OF THE AGRICULTURE GROUP'S ROLE HELD BY OUR NEGOTIATING PARTNERS. PERHAPS IT WILL BE HELPFUL IF WE CLARIFIED WHERE WE NOW STAND.

TO STATE OUR PRESENT POSITION CLEARLY: WE WILL AGREE TO THE INITIAL FORMATION OF COMMODITY GROUPS FOR GRAINS, MEAT, DAIRY AND POSSIBLY SUGAR PROVIDING A MEANS IS FOUND TO INCORPORATE THE RELEVANT PART OF THEIR WORK INTO THE WORK OF THE TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF MEASURES GROUPS. AS FOR GRAINS, OUR AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISHING A SUB-GROUP FOR CEREALS WOULD BE CONDITIONAL ON AGREEMENT THAT THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MTN WORK ON GRAINS WOULD ALSO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE WORK IN LONDON TO ELABORATE THE ELEMENTS AND MECHANISMS OF A GRAINS RESERVES SYSTEM. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO GREAT DIFFICULTY OVER THIS IDEA.

THERE IS A SECOND CONDITION WHICH CAN BE PUT MANY WAYS, BUT VERY SIMPLY IT IS THAT WE SEEK AN AGREEMENT THAT DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURAL ISSUES WILL NOT BE BLOCKED WHEN SUCH ISSUES ARISE IN THE TARIFF AND NON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TARIFF MEASURES GROUPS. THIS WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY RESTRICT THE ROLE OF THE AGRICULTURE GROUP TO DISCUSS ANY MATTER OR ISSUE RELATED TO AGRICULTURE. THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT NO DELEGATION SHOULD BLOCK DISCUSSION OF AN ISSUE WHENEVER IT MAY BE BROUGHT UP BY ANOTHER DELEGATION THAT CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT AND RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF A GROUP OTHER THAN AGRICULTURE. OF COURSE, THE RIGHT TO DO THIS SHOULD NOT BE ABUSED.

IT SEEMS TO US THAT THIS IS A REASONABLE PROPOSITION AND ONE IN THE INTEREST OF ALL COUNTRIES AND IN THE INTEREST OF ADVANCING THE WORK ON AGRICULTURE IN THE MTN.

FINALLY, I MUST CALL TO THE ATTENTION OF OUR NEGOTIATING PARTNERS THAT THE US NEGOTIATING MANDATE IN THE FORM OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 REQUIRES THAT, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, NEGOTIATIONS TO REDUCE THE BARRIERS TO TRADE IN AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS MUST BE CONDUCTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS. THUS IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS BE STRUCTURED SO AS TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.

LET ME REPEAT THAT THE UNITED STATES REGARDS THE MTN AS BEING EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. WE WILL MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO OUR PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. WE WANT TO GET ON WITH THE REAL WORK OF THE MTN. WE HAVE NOT BEEN, NOR WILL EVER BE, DIFFICULT OVER ISSUES THAT ARE PURELY PROCEDURAL. THE PRESENT PROBLEMS ARE OF REAL SUBSTANCE AND THE WAYS IN WHICH THEY ARE RESOLVED WILL INFLUENCE THE ENTIRE COURSE OF THE MTN.

SOME VERY USEFUL CONCEPTS HAVE EMERGED THIS MORNING, ESPECIALLY ONE PUT FORWARD BY THE DELEGATE OF YUGOSLAVIA. WE ALSO FIND THE PROPOSAL MADE BY THE ARGENTINE DELEGATE TO BE VERY HELPFUL. HE SUGGESTED COMMODITY SUB-GROUPS BE ESTABLISHED WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE CONCEPTUAL ISSUES WE HAVE REFERRED TO. IF THIS COULD BE DONE, THE US MIGHT AGREE NOW TO THE FORMATION OF SOME OF THESE GROUPS, PROVIDING THAT THERE WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEED TO BE, IN THE CASE OF GRAINS, SUITABLE LANGUAGE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COONCIL WORK ON A GRAINS RESERVES SYSTEM.  
END QUOTE.  
WOLFF

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## Message Attributes

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